

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Ichiro Koguma et al.

Application No.: 10/531,568

Confirmation No. 1851

Filed: April 18, 2005

Art Unit: 1723

For: HYDROPHILIC MICROPOROUS
MEMBRANE

Examiner: Ana M. Fortuna

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Attn: MS PCT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

Timing of Filing of the Information Disclosure Statement:

- This IDS is being filed before the First Office Action¹.

¹ The IDS should, where possible, include a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e).

- This IDS is being filed after the issuance of the First Office Action but before the issuance of a Final Office Action².
- This IDS is being filed after the issuance of a Final Office Action, Ex Parte Quayle Action or Notice of Allowance but before the payment of the Issue Fee³.

Certifications:

If checked, the undersigned makes the following statement(s):

- Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement; or

No item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

² The IDS *must* include either a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

³ The IDS *must* include both a certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

- Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d):

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application less than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Fee Required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) or 1.97(d)(2):

- If checked, the fee of \$180.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is attached.

Copies of Information:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a), the following are enclosed:

- A legible copy⁴ of each document (or relevant portion thereof) cited in the attached PTO/SB/08, except for U.S. patent and U.S. published applications.
- With respect to any information which is not in English, a concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, is attached.
This concise explanation is provided by way of:

- A translation of the relevant portions of the non-English language information⁵;

⁴ A legible copy of the document is not required if (1) the information was previously cited by, or submitted to, the Office and considered by the Office in a prior U.S. application to which this application claims priority, provided that the prior application is properly identified in this IDS, and (2) the IDS submitted in the earlier application complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a) – (c). This exception does not apply to information cited in an International Application.

⁵ 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(ii) requires that an English language translation be provided when a translation of the document, or portion thereof, "is within the possession, custody or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)."

- A statement explaining the relevant portions of the non-English language information;
 - A copy [and, where not in the English language, a translation] of at least the relevant portion(s)⁶ of the communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application in which the information was cited; or
 - This information is contained in the specification of the present application.
- In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d), copies of the cited documents are not enclosed as they were provided in application Serial No. , filed , which the present application relies upon for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

Materiality:

Whether or not the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement is "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

In the event the actual fee is inadvertently not enclosed or if any additional fee during the prosecution of this application is not paid, the Patent Office is authorized to charge the underpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

Dated: March 29, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By


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⁶ The relevant portion is that portion which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office. This may be an explanation of which portion of the reference is particularly relevant, to which claims it applies, or merely an "X", "Y", or "A" indication on a search report. MPEP §609 III A(3).

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 144a/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number	10/531,568-Conf. #1851
(Use as many sheets as necessary)				Filing Date	April 18, 2005
Sheet	1	of	1	First Named Inventor	Ichiro Koguma
				Art Unit	1723
				Examiner Name	A. M. Fortuna
				Attorney Docket Number	A5868.0035

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cts No.*	Document Number Number-Kind Code* (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
AA*	US-6,019,925		02-01-2000	Diamantoglou et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cts No.*	Foreign Patent Document Country Code*-Number*-Kind Code* (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
					T ⁴

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 608. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. * CITE NO.: These application(s) which are marked on single asterisk (*) next to the Cite No. are not equivalent (under 37 CFR 1.98(e)(2)(ii)) because that application was filed after June 30, 2003 or is available in the IFW. * Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). *See Notice Concerning PTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 601.04. *Error Office that issued the document by the four-letter code (WPO Standard ST 16). * For AIA patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. * Kind of document by the appropriate symbol as indicated on the document under WPO Standard ST 16 if possible. * Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cts No.*	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue-number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 608. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

*Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). *Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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